



Welcome

Prelude/Candle-Lighting

“Consolation I”
(F. Liszt)

Oxana Khramova

Ringing of the Bell

Call to Worship/Lighting the Advent Candle

Nancy Richie and Kim Hagen

Reader 1: When the angel Gabriel visited Mary, announcing God’s plan for her to conceive and give birth to the Messiah, “Mary said to the angel, “How can this be...?”” Yet, only a few months later, Mary sings to Elizabeth, “My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior...”

All: Like Mary, we hear God’s call to be part of making God’s dream a reality, and we ask, “How can this be?” Like Mary, we are only small, ordinary people.

Reader 2: Yet, like Mary, the weaknesses that make us hesitate are gifts God can and will use as God’s love transforms us into bearers of good news.

All: We have encountered the divine Love that disrupts the status quo and ushers us into abundant life.

Reader 1: We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, God’s just peace, our fierce joy, and the love that transforms us. May Love grow within us, transforming us into bold witnesses of God’s salvation with our voices and our lives.

Opening Prayer (in unison)

Emmanuel, we stop this morning to wait in hushed expectation for the transforming Love that is coming near. The Hope-Bringer, Peace-Maker, Joy-Sustainer grows in a womb, preparing to be born among us. With Mary, we long for the coming of the One who will transform the world, bringing justice where injustice reigns, fullness where hunger persists, and favor to the ones the world calls lowly. We join our voices and our lives with Mary’s as we proclaim the coming of the Love that transforms us! Amen.

*Opening Hymn

“Canticle of the Turning”

SoF #20

Readings

Jeanne Rothaupt

Psalm 89:1-4

Luke 1:46b-55

From “Imaging a new political economy with Miriam of Nazareth”, Debra Dean Murphy

Sermon	<i>My Heart Shall Sing</i>	Rev. Kathleen Remund
Transitional Music	“Aria Variata” (J.S. Bach)	Oxana Khramova
Prayers of the People		
Offertory	“Angels We Have Heard on High” (Traditional)	Oxana Khramova

***Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication (in unison)

Gracious and generous God, we offer these gifts to you in the midst of a festival of gift-giving and gift-receiving. We trust that these gifts are both a celebration and a commitment to your promise to transform our world with your self-giving love. Use these offerings, we pray, to further your work of love, healing, peacemaking, and world-remaking. May it be so. Amen.

*Closing Hymn	“People Look East”	Hymnal #12
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***Benediction**

Leader: Beloveds, our wait for the Saving One is almost over...and it has just begun. As you go from this space, carry God’s transforming love in your hearts. And may your lives give birth to hope, peace, joy, and love wherever you go.

All: Amen.

***Sung Benediction**

God be with you till we meet again;
By their counsels guide, uphold you;
With their sheep securely fold you;
God be with you till we meet again.

Postlude	“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” (Julie A. Lind)	Oxana Khramova
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Credits

- The Call to Worship/Advent Candle-Lighting and Benediction were adapted from pieces written by Dr. Lisa Hancock for Discipleship Ministries and posted at <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/our-spirit-waits/>.
- The Prayers of the People were adapted from one written by Dr. Susan M. (Elli) Elliott, December 12, 2004, <http://ellielliott.webs.com/sermonsprayers.htm> and re-posted on <https://re-worship.blogspot.com>.
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This Week

Christmas Eve Worship today, December 24th: 5:30 pm, Sanctuary

Monday, December 25th and Tuesday December 26th: Office closed for the holiday.

Wednesday, December 27th: No Kid's Club, Choir and Bells rehearsal. All on Christmas break.

Mission Statement of First Congregational United Church of Christ in Menomonie, WI

We are called together:

To celebrate God's presence.

To help each person to grow in his or her relationship with God;

To Create a welcoming and supportive community of all God's people;

The diversity of race, gender, age, sexual orientation, gender expression, and identity, social and economic status, and the differently abled;

To observe and share life's passages and our faith traditions;

To reach out in love seeking justice and peace;

And to tell the old story of Jesus and His love.

Land Acknowledgement

Here we congregate on Ojibwe, Dakota, Menominee, Potawatomi, and Ho Chunk land. Generations of Indigenous people occupied and provided careful stewardship of this land long before Europeans arrived on these shores. The traumatic dispossession of this land by European immigrants and the displacement of countless individuals produced collective suffering that has repercussions for our Indigenous neighbors today. The original inhabitants of this land—known to some Indigenous peoples as Turtle Island—took seriously the Creator's call to be stewards of air, land, water, and creatures. With gratitude, we acknowledge the lessons we continue to learn from our Indigenous neighbors as we seek to be good stewards and pray for guidance in learning how to make reparations.

Announcements

Please stay after 10:00 service to help decorate for this evening's Christmas Eve service. The blue and silver balls will be taken off the sanctuary tree, and gold balls added. The poinsettias need to be arranged in the sanctuary. The banners and paraments will also be changed. Even a few minutes would help. Thank you!

Carol Nies, Stephanie May and Dean Langby are hosting a contra-dance on Saturday, Dec. 30, 4-6 pm, at the Family Learning Center, 523 Cedar Ave. E, in Menomonie. Dances include square and contra-dances, waltzes and some international. All dances are called so little to no experience is needed. Live band includes Dean and Isaiah May, the caller is Ann Carter, and your free will donation will go towards paying Ann. Stick around afterwards for a potluck in the basement.

Thursday's Table

Community take-out meal each Thursday from 5-6:00 pm.

Community Care

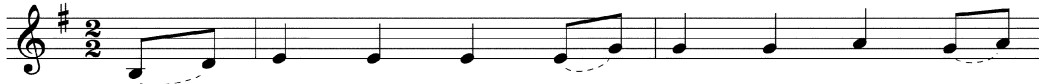
AA Meetings, Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays 6:30am, Fellowship Hall

Al-Anon Meetings, Mondays, 6:00pm, Parlor

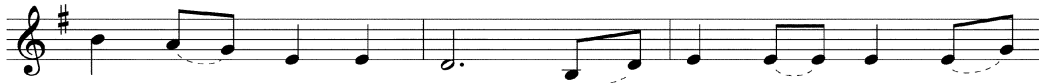
NA Meetings, Fridays, 7:00pm, lower-level Room 5

Canticle of the Turning

Verses



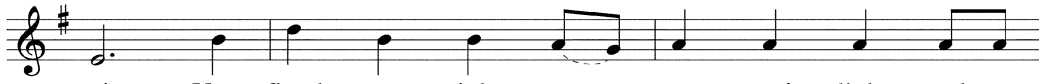
1. My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
2. Though I am small, my God, my all, you
3. From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a
4. Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, And my spir - it sings of the
work great things in me, And your mer - cy will last from the
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who
depths of the past to the end of the age to
jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant from his
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing



wait. You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
be. Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
throne. The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the
grasp. This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, So from east to west shall my
those who would for you yearn, You will show your might, put the
food they can nev - er earn; There are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
prom - ise which holds us bound, 'Til the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

Refrain

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the
fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the
dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn!

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics. The second staff contains the melody for the second line of lyrics. The third staff contains the melody for the third line of lyrics and ends with a double bar line. The lyrics are: "My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn!"

Text: Luke 1:46-58; Rory Cooney, b.1952, © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.
Tune: STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN; Irish traditional; arr. by Rory Cooney, b.1952

People, Look East

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Eleanor Farjeon (1881–1965)
As in *Oxford Book of Carols*, 1964

BESANÇON 8.7.9.8.8.7

French folk melody
Harm. Martin Shaw (1875–1958)

1. Peo - ple, look east. The time is near Of the crown-ing of the
2. Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, One more seed is plant-ed
3. Birds, though you long have ceased to build, Guard the nest that must be
4. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim One more light the bowl shall

year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble, Trim the
there: Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish, That in
filled. E - ven the hour when wings are fro - zen God for
brim, Shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er, Bright as

Peo-ple, look east and sing to - day:
hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo-ple, look east:
course the flower may flour - ish.
fledg - ing time has cho - sen.
sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo-ple, look east:

Love the guest is on the way.
Love the rose is on the way.
Love the bird is on the way.
Love the star is on the way.
Love is on the way.

5. Angels, announce with shouts of mirth With the word, the Lord is coming.
Christ who brings new life to earth. People, look east and sing today:
Set every peak and valley humming Love the Lord is on the way.

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